

Friday

Children's Marquee

6.30 - 7.00pm *Children's Welcome – Andy Harrop Smith with Suzanne and Jake Thomas (Age A)*

Come and join in the fun and get the weekend off to a great start with some lively and engaging stories and songs for children of all ages.

8.00 - 8.45pm *Bedtime Stories – Sue Bailey (Age A)*

Bring your teddy bears and pyjamas and let this wonderful storyteller, from the Isle of Wight, ready your little ones for a night of sweet dreams.

Red Marquee

7.30 - 8.30pm *Petal Demon – Shonaleigh (Age D, 12+)*

In old Jerusalem a gardener's daughter flees from an evil sorcerer and takes refuge with an old wise woman, who is his equal in magic and wisdom. So begins a journey that will lead her across the world, from East to West, from South to North, over land and sea, never stopping in the same place twice, never stopping in any place for long, with the sorcerer always in pursuit.

8.45 - 9.45pm *The Chain – Sahand Sahebdivani (Age D)*

"Have you ever heard the tragedy of Mighty Rostram, the mythical hero of ancient Persia? You have definitely not heard the version my father would tell me. It's the story he carried in his heart when he travelled over his native mountains to save his life."

Sahand mixes these epic myths with his family stories in an intricate tapestry which make it seem the stories always belonged together.

10.45 - 11.45pm *The Secret Commonwealth: Believe in Fairies – Tim Ralphs*

(Age D)

In 1691 Reverend Robert Kirk dipped quill-pen into ink and began to write. He wanted to offer up incontrovertible proof of a race of Subterranean Beings; the Good People, bringing them to the attention of the scientific community and wider world. But the Fair Folk are proud and secretive. Their ears pricked when they heard that quill scratching. Kirk's manuscript was never finished. Or was it? Come on a tour of stories from across the British Isles, dark and superbly strange.

Purple Marquee

7.00 - 8.15pm *Tales and Tunes of Welcome* – Ana Maria Lines, Linda Moylan, David Hughes, Dan Walsh, Len Cabral (Age A)

Introducing some of our wonderful storytellers and musicians to get the Festival off to a cracking start and giving you a flavour of the delights to come. Feel the warmth and energy of the Festival in this delightful opening show.

8.45 - 9.45pm *Skirting Danger and Living to Talk About It* – Len Cabral (Age C)

Len is back with us by popular demand, and Len's first show of the festival showcases his versatile talent in four fabulous Adventure tales, transporting you from Ireland through Mexico, America, Italy and Martinique and to his homeland of Cape Verde.

10.45 - 11.45pm *Concert – The Time Bandits* (Age A)

The Time Bandits are a Chester-based folk band who are equally at home playing concerts or for dances. Influenced by artists such as the Albion Band, Blowzabella and Steeleye Span, the repertoire mixes Renaissance and early dance music with traditional and contemporary songs and tunes played on a variety of instruments including fiddle, border bagpipes, saxophone, recorders, melodeon, bouzouki and electric bass.

The band believe early music is not for the museum. Whether first played five hundred years ago, or perhaps a mere hundred years ago, this is living music that should be played and enjoyed with a passion.

Yellow Marquee

7.00 - 8.30pm *Workshop Write your own Story* - Mark Borthwick (Age A)

This is an excellent introduction to story craft and the art of orally telling your own stories, suitable for all ages (from 8 – 80 years old). Mark adapts one of his popular workshops, which he regularly runs in schools, to share his knowledge and skills with a FatE audience. In this workshop Mark starts by telling a story and then helps you to explore how to use a simple, indestructible rubric, and learn how the story works from a narrative perspective, enabling you to develop your own stories. The session ends with everyone sharing their stories in a circle. No prior experience needed.

Festival at the Edge 2024 - Detailed Programme – Friday Evening

Max – 20. Please sign up at Box Office.

8.45 - 9.45pm *Tink Talk Sherlock and the Faeries go to Edinburgh - Tink (a.k.a. F.R. Maher) (Age A)*

Do you believe in fairies?

Meet Tink who not only runs the legendary *Fairy Festival* in Llangollen but is now producing a play about the little folk which will be premiered at *Edinburgh Fringe*.

Hear how the Cottingley Fairies, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes have inspired Tink to create a ground-breaking new work and the hoops she's jumping through to get it on the stage.

She'll share how the gleam of an idea has become reality. Listen. Learn and ask questions!

10.45pm - midnight *Ghost Story Round led by Jon Buckeridge (Age 12+)*

Over the years many festival-goers have told their first story in public at FatE, and on Friday night you get the opportunity to tell a Ghost tale, or other scary story of your choosing. Your scary tale needs to be under 15 minutes long; feel free to bring it along to the story round and give it a whirl. Telling to a group of friendly strangers will help you gain valuable experience and hone your storytelling skills. Jon will try and get as many voices heard as is possible.

No prior experience necessary.

Other venues:

Walled Garden

10.00 – 10.30pm *Opening Ceremony Mister Fox meets the Wickerman! – Andy Harrop Smith and Mister Fox (Age A)*

Mister Fox – a tale born of fire, dance and folklore. If you listen for the drums and look for the fire on Friday evening you will discover for yourself. From the darkness they come; a procession of vermin with burning torches flickering, they follow their banner gathering crowds in their wake. Down to their arena they prowl. They claim their space, fires are lit, and they begin. To the beat of the drum and the tune of the band they enact their show, blending dance and story in a display as bewildering as it is fascinating. No two shows are quite alike, sometimes they're alone, at other times they are accompanied by further strange figures. The show closes and, as they are swallowed by the night, all you'll be left with is a memory – and a wish to untangle the web they have woven.

Bar

8.15 - 9.15pm Bar Sessions – Dan Walsh and Linda Moylan (Age 14+)

Linda Moylan is a London-based, Irish-born singer-songwriter. Originally hailing from Waterford, Linda's family migrated to England in 1980s. A natural singer, songwriter and storyteller, her songs explore a wide array of themes from forgotten stories to her experiences of growing up in a tough Irish household near the East End of London docks.

BBC Folk Awards Best Musician nominee Dan Walsh combines “virtuoso playing and winning songwriting” (Morning Star). Describing what Dan does is no easy task but at the heart of it is British, Irish and American folk music delivered with a healthy dose of funky grooves – all performed on clawhammer style banjo helping to challenge all preconceptions about the instrument. His poignant songs, astonishing musical departures and lively humour create a truly memorable live show which has wowed audiences across the world from intimate seated rooms to huge dancing crowds in festival fields.

Midnight till late Midnight Jam Away! - Adam Beresford-Browne and Friends (Age 14+)

Chill out, or join in, with these midnight sessions. Bring your instrument, your voice, and immerse yourself in the energetic vibes of music at FatE.

Birchwood

11.00pm - Midnight Fireside Sessions – Dan Serridge, Mossy Christian and Megan Wisdom (Age 14+)

The beautiful orange, yellow and reds of the flickering flames, the embers sparking off, all creating fabulous inspiration for stories, songs and the coming together of humans in this age-old storytelling setting. Listen to Dan, Mossy and Megan as they weave their words and music to provide a magical end to the opening night of FatE.

Note: If weather is unsuitable this event will be moved to the Children's Marquee.